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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on 6 and 7 July 1996 Kuwaiti naval patrols committed a number of assaults on Iraqi fishermen inside Iraqi territorial waters.

On 6 July the 11 fishermen on board the Iraqi vessel Al-Sadiq were assaulted by a Kuwaiti patrol. The vessel and its crew were detained and the crewmen were physically assaulted and verbally abused while being questioned.

On 7 July an Iraqi fishing boat was attacked and the crewmen were beaten and required to lower their Iraqi flag. Some of them still show signs of physical abuse.

I request you to intervene with the Government of Kuwait with a view to halting the unwarranted acts of aggression against Iraqi fishing vessels and Iraqi fishermen in which it engages in such a provocative manner. Such acts are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and they create a tense situation in a part of the region in which security and stability should prevail. I also affirm the right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the material and other damage caused to it by Kuwait's perpetration of such acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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